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Wallop whacks Webster on Hill

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Sen. Malcolm Wallop yesterday criticized FBI Director William Webster for his "dreadful" performance in countering hostile intelligence activities.

Mr. Wallop, Wyoming Republican and a former Intelligence subcommittee chairman, also said in an interview that U.S. intelligence and foreign policy agencies failed for almost 10 years to institute reforms that could have prevented recent espionage breaches at U.S. diplomatic facilities in the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile in Indiana, President Reagan yesterday called Soviet bugging of the Moscow embassy "outrageous" as he brushed aside questions about alleged U.S. bugging of Soviet embassies.

Mr. Wallop said the FBI under Mr. Webster and his predecessor, Clarence Kelly, consistently requested counterespionage budgets that were inadequate to meet the threat of spying in the United States.

Also, the FBI "for years" refused to share information with the CIA about suspected U.S. and foreign espionage agents traveling to and from the United States, he said.

"The FBI has been dreadful on

that," Mr. Wallop said. "Continually, the FBI under Bill Webster... had to have counterintelligence money piled on it every year in their budget requests, and never once came with a budget that was adequate to meet the threat as they assessed it."

Senate confirmation hearings on Mr. Webster's nomination to head the CIA ended yesterday. A vote is expected in about two weeks.

Mr. Wallop, one of the few member of Congress to push tough anti-spy measures on the U.S. intelligence community, said the CIA and State Department also consistently opposed counterintelligence programs.

"The reaction within the community to any suggestion of counterintelligence was to throw up the flag of Jim Angleton and say, 'We can't look at that,'" Mr. Wallop said. "There was not a single professional around who would engage in the conversation about what counterintelligence was all about."

James Angleton, former CIA counterintelligence chief, was a leading advocate of "offensive counterintelligence" — the use of double agents and other covert actions — to thwart espionage.

The State Department, Mr. Wallop said, regards anti-spy efforts as a "necessary evil that could be accommodated with lip service."

He said the only way to change attitudes toward counterespionage would be for the administration to punish senior officials in the State Department and U.S. Embassy in Moscow over the recent spy scandal.

Four Marine security guards once stationed in the Soviet Union have been arrested since the beginning of the year. Three are suspected of spying for the Soviet Union.

Mr. Reagan, before a speech yesterday at Purdue University, was asked to comment on Soviet charges that U.S. counterspies planted in Soviet facilities listening devices like the ones found infesting the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

"If you want to believe them, go ahead," Mr. Reagan said of the Soviets. He declined to discuss intelligence or counterespionage matters and, asked about Soviet television pictures purportedly showing U.S. "bugs," said he hadn't paid any attention to it.

White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker also declined to discuss Soviet charges of U.S. bugging.

Mr. Baker said the president, while "indignant" over the Soviet intelligence activities at the embassy in Moscow, nonetheless urged Secretary of State George Shultz to go ahead this weekend with his planned visit to Moscow because of the "high stakes involved."

Gen. Paul X. Kelley, in testimony before the Senate defense appropriations subcommittee, said correcting Marine security guard procedures in Moscow has "the highest priority."

Gen. Kelly said it would "imprudent" to discuss details of the Marine spy case, but said, in general, "I think we ought to execute people convicted of treason."

Last year Congress passed an amendment to the Uniform Code of Military Justice that would allow military forces to execute convicted spies in its ranks.

Earlier, two members of Congress blamed U.S. "complacency toward security" for alleged KGB penetrations of the embassy in Moscow and the consulate in Leningrad.

Rep. Daniel Mica, Florida Democrat, and Rep. Olympia Snowe, Maine Republican, inspected security procedures at the Moscow embassy earlier this week.

"It's clear to me that everybody bears a substantial part of the blame as to what took place," Mrs. Snowe said in a television interview. "It appears to us, based on our interviews again, that there was an erosion of security ethic and standard procedures and, as a result, I think created a very lax attitude and complacency toward security, which resulted in one of the most tragic and unfortunate events in the history of U.S. embassies."